

F-4-82
Keller-Hargett House
Braddock Heights vicinity
Private

Ca. 1805

The Keller-Hargett House is a circa 1805, two-story stone house with a two-story rear wing located on the south side of Old National Pike with its facade virtually at the edge of the road. Possibly built as a combination residence and tavern, the house has a four-bay facade with double entrances in the typical style of German dwellings of the early 19th century. The plastered main elevation shows the outline of a one-story porch which once sheltered an antique shop during the 1930's. At the south elevation of the rear wing is a vestige of the business, a circa 1890 Colonial Revival Palladian window which was relocated from another building during the 1930's. The house is principally significant for the building technology of the early 19th century represented in its stone construction; however, it may have some connection to the commercial aspect of the National Road as a tavern. Land records and other histories do not confirm this, but further research should clarify its use over time.

F-4-82
Keller-Hargett House
Braddock Heights
Frederick County

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Piedmont
(Harford, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Howard, Montgomery
Counties, and Baltimore City)

Chronological/Development Period:
Rural Agrarian Intensification, A.D. 1680-1815
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, A.D. 1815-1870
Industrial/Urban Dominance, A.D. 1870-1930
Modern Period, A.D. 1930-Present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Themes:
Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Function and Use:
Domestic/single dwelling/residence

Known Design Source: None

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

M66 P401
MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. F-4-82

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☒ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Keller-Hargett House; Frederick Dahlia Gardens

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 4851 Old National Pike ☐ not for publication

city, town Braddock Heights ☒ vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Maryland county Frederick

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Braddock Spring Tollhouse Estates Ltd. Partnership

street & number Box 71 telephone no.:

city, town Braddock Heights state and zip code Md. 21714

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Frederick County Courthouse liber 988

street & number 100 W. Patrick Street folio 589

city, town Frederick state Md. 21701

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. F-4-82

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 1

The Keller-Hargett House is a two-story stone dwelling with a stone rear wing built about 1805 on the south side of Old National Pike (U.S. 40A) about 1/4 mile east of Maryland Avenue at the crest of Catoctin Mountain near Braddock Heights, Frederick County, Maryland. The house stands at the edge of the right-of-way and once had a one-story porch on its main elevation, which has been removed due to widening of the road. The rear wing also once had a frame extension, removed about 1931. A Colonial Revival Palladian window with leaded glass, relocated from another building probably during the 1930's, is located in the south end of the wing. Originally a single-family residence and possibly a tavern in the early 19th century, the property was once the center of a semi-commercial horticultural endeavor, the Frederick Dahlia Gardens, in the 1930's. The house is currently used as a three-unit apartment building.

The main elevation faces northeast and has four bays. The stone surface is plastered and the outline of the removed porch roof is visible. Two entrances occupy the inner bays, each with raised four-panel doors and two-light transoms. The window lintels and sills are plain wood and the sash is 2/2. Shutter hinges remain in place, although the shutters have been removed. The cornice is corbeled brick and the chimneys are located at the interior gable end walls. The roof is covered with corrugated metal. The gable ends are unplastered and have two attic windows with six lights each. The rear wing has two levels, with an exposed basement because of the steeply sloped topography dropping away from the road level. The wing has dormers in each side of the corrugated metal roof, which were probably added in the 1930's. The east side has a two-level porch, enclosed on the upper floor and open below. The enclosed part is faced with german siding. The window types in the wing vary, with 2/2, 6/6, and casements at different locations. On the south elevation of the wing is a circa 1890 Colonial Revival Palladian window with a leaded fanlight. This window was probably relocated from another building during the 1930's when Frank C. Hargett, the owner of the property, operated an antique shop in the front porch of the house, concurrently with the Frederick Dahlia Gardens on the grounds of the house. A circa 1900 photograph in Hooper, Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward shows a view of the property from the southeast in a period when the surrounding environment was still primarily in agricultural use and cleared. The frame extension on the rear of the stone wing is clearly visible. It had two stories and a flat roof above which the gable end of the stone section was visible. It was probably removed about 1930. Northwest of the house was a bank barn and several small sheds, part of the original farm. These no longer exist and the property is much overgrown except for a cleared area around the house. Two small non-contributing frame sheds are located south of the house. The interior of the house was inaccessible for this survey.

8. Significance

Survey No. F-4-82

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900– | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates C. 1805

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Keller-Hargett House is primarily significant as a fair example of the stonemasonry technology of the first quarter of the 19th century. Its design is the typical German dwelling with double entrances and a perpendicular rear wing. The circa 1890 Colonial Revival Palladian window inserted in the rear wing in the 1930's is a good example of its type and period, although not original to the house. Information gathered by local historians Ann Lebherz and Mary Margrave suggests the Keller-Hargett House may have had some use as a tavern on the National Road during the early 19th century, but this has not been confirmed by deed research and other local histories. The current ownership is a limited partnership whose name, Braddock Spring Tollhouse Estates, hints that the house may have served as a tollhouse. However, Hooper's Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward (1974) shows a postcard view of the 1-1/2 story tollhouse demolished in 1957 and specifically locates it further east on the road from the Keller-Hargett House. The Frederick Dahlia Gardens operated by Frank C. Hargett in the 1930's achieved some regional status as a horticultural center, as he developed new varieties here and was occasionally visited by well-known individuals for whom Hargett named his hybrids. Two mentioned by Hooper were Maryland Governor Albert C. Ritchie and the Japanese ambassador.

Viewed in context with other stone dwellings of the first quarter of the 19th century, the Keller-Hargett House is a fair representative of the period, largely because of the alterations of the 1930's. Since the interior has been converted to apartment use, its interior floor plan may be assumed to have considerable alteration. However, visits by Ann Lebherz and Mary Margrave in the late 1970's indicate that at least some interior trim and other materials remain intact. A true placement of the Keller-Hargett House in context should be based on current interior as well as exterior documentation. Further historical documentation remains to be researched, as the title chain becomes obscure in about 1878 and the owners' names to that point do not coincide with those shown on the 1873 Titus Atlas and 1858 Bond maps.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. F-4-82

Bond, Isaac. Map of Frederick County, 1858.

Hooper, Anne B. Braddock Heights: A Glance Backward. Privately published, 1974, pp. 61-62.

Land Records of Frederick County

Titus, C.O. Atlas of Frederick County, 1873

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1 acreQuadrangle name Middletown, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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| Zone | Easting | | | Northing | | | | | |

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Approximately 1 acre centered on house on Tax Map 66, Parcel 401.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyororganization Frederick County Planning & Zoning Dept. date June 1992street & number 12 E. Church Street telephone 696-2958city or town Frederick state Md. 21701

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCP
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

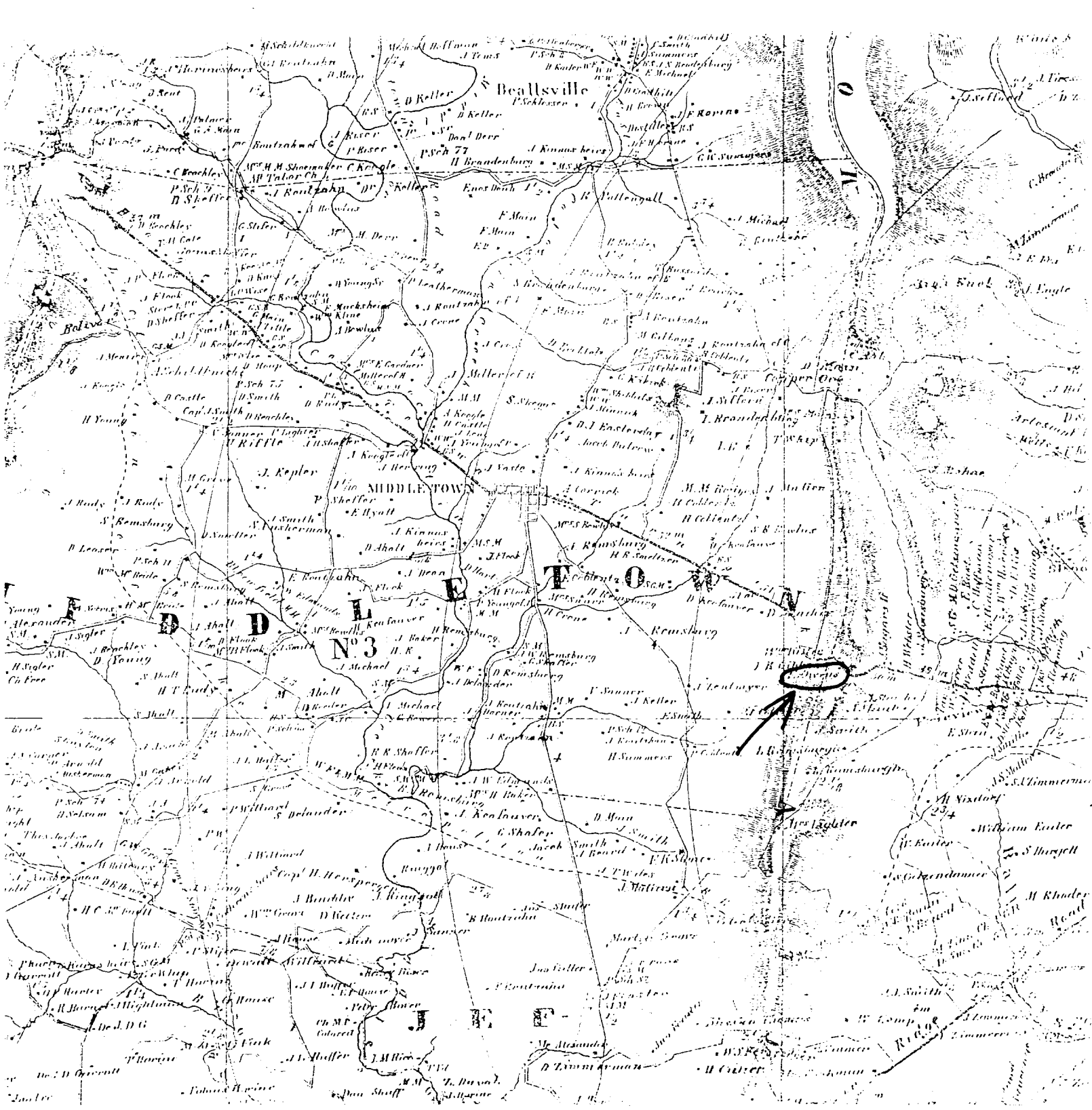
4851 O.N.P.

| LIBER/FO. 10 | GRANTEE | GRANTOR | ORIGINAL TRACTS | COST | DATE |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|--------|------|
| 988/589 14 May 76 | Braddock Springs Tollhouse Estates Ltd. Partnership | Carolyn Meir, undoc | "Meir Property" 16 a. ± between H & F Trolley lines & Route 40A + part of old H & F trolley ROW on SW boundary | | |
| 481/134 25 Aug 49 | John Meir & Carolyn Meir | Vernon A. & Myrtle E. Puffenberger | 16 a. ± located west of the Braddock Spring | | |
| 28 May 49 | Vernon A. Puffenberger | James K. & Lois M. Bayland | | | |
| 455/238 7 Jun 46 | James K. & Lois M. Bayland | Edna C. & Edward A. Romaine | 16 a. | | |
| 455/238 18 Oct 45 | Edna C. Romaine | Miriam G. Keller & Henrietta Bowne | | | |
| 423/594 17 May 40 | Miriam G. Keller & Henrietta Bowne | Philip Wertheimer & Janis M. Wertheimer | "known as the Frederick Dahlia Gardens" | | |
| 421/110 13 Mar 39 | Philip Wertheimer | H. Kipper Delauter exr. of lost will & test of Frank C. Hargett | | \$3500 | |
| 380/352 14 Sept 31 | Frank C. Hargett | Charles Wertheimer undoc | see also 328/52, 2 Apr 19 for transfer to Chas. Wertheimer from Poole | | |

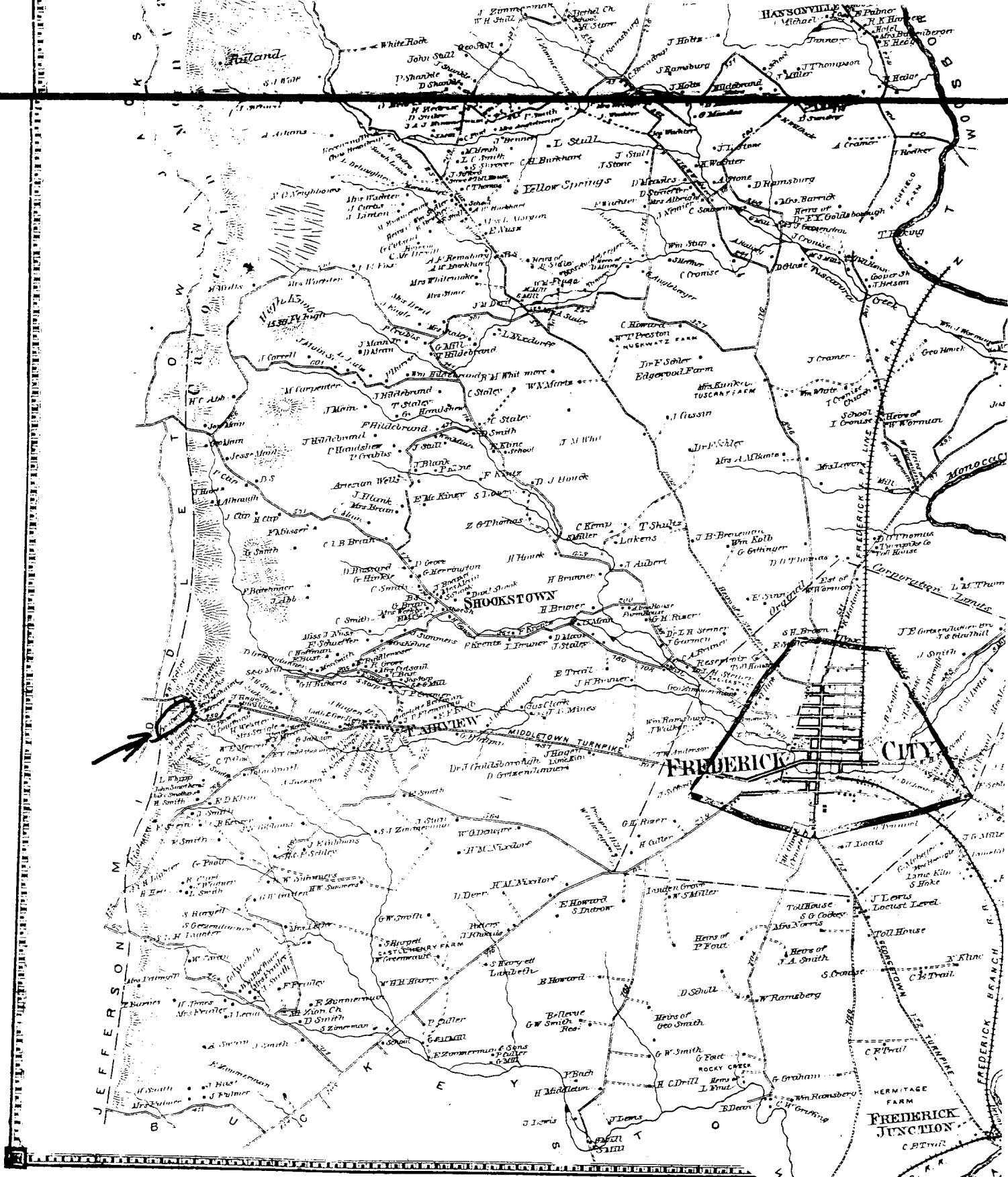
F-4-82

| LIBER/FOLIO | GRANTEE | GRANTOR | ORIGINAL TRACTS | COST | DATE |
|---|---|---|---|--|------|
| 316/316 31 Mar 16 | LeRoy D. Grange & Myrtle L. De Grange | John W. L. Poole & Bessie May Poole (sic) | | | |
| DHH 15/349 8 Nov 02 HWB 308/358 30 Mar 14 | John W. L. Poole & Bessie May Poole | Melvin A. E. Biser & Esta M. Biser | | | |
| DHH 15/349 8 Nov 02 | Melvin A. E. Biser | Braddock Hgts. Imp. Co. | 16a. | \$2200 | |
| DHH 3/642 18 Mar 1899 | Braddock Hgts Imp. Co. | Daniel E. Kefauver et al incl. George W. Smith | | \$10,000 | |
| SLJ 5/282 1 Aug 1893 | George W. Smith | Thomas Mc. Wiles & Janetta L. Wiles | "Nothing Venture Nothing Gain" Fielders Manor 30a. | | |
| AF 1/175 24 Jan 1880 | Janetta L. & Thomas Mc. Wiles | John D. Keller, Trustee Equity # 4282 Jore Long & John D. Keller vs Ann Eliza Keller, et al | 30a. | \$2,002 | |
| Equity Record 165/280 26 Mar 1878 | | | 2 st. stone house w/ good back including large stone barn | CM 2/715 23 Jan 1867 Safford & J. W. D. 15 Mar 1868 80a. #1316.25 Fielders Manor Wm. Myelster to Wm. Keller CM 1/601, 13 Mar 1868 19 1/2a. #3, 441.25 Fielders Manor Thomas Wilester to Wm. Keller CM 2/725 230 TC 2/1 | |

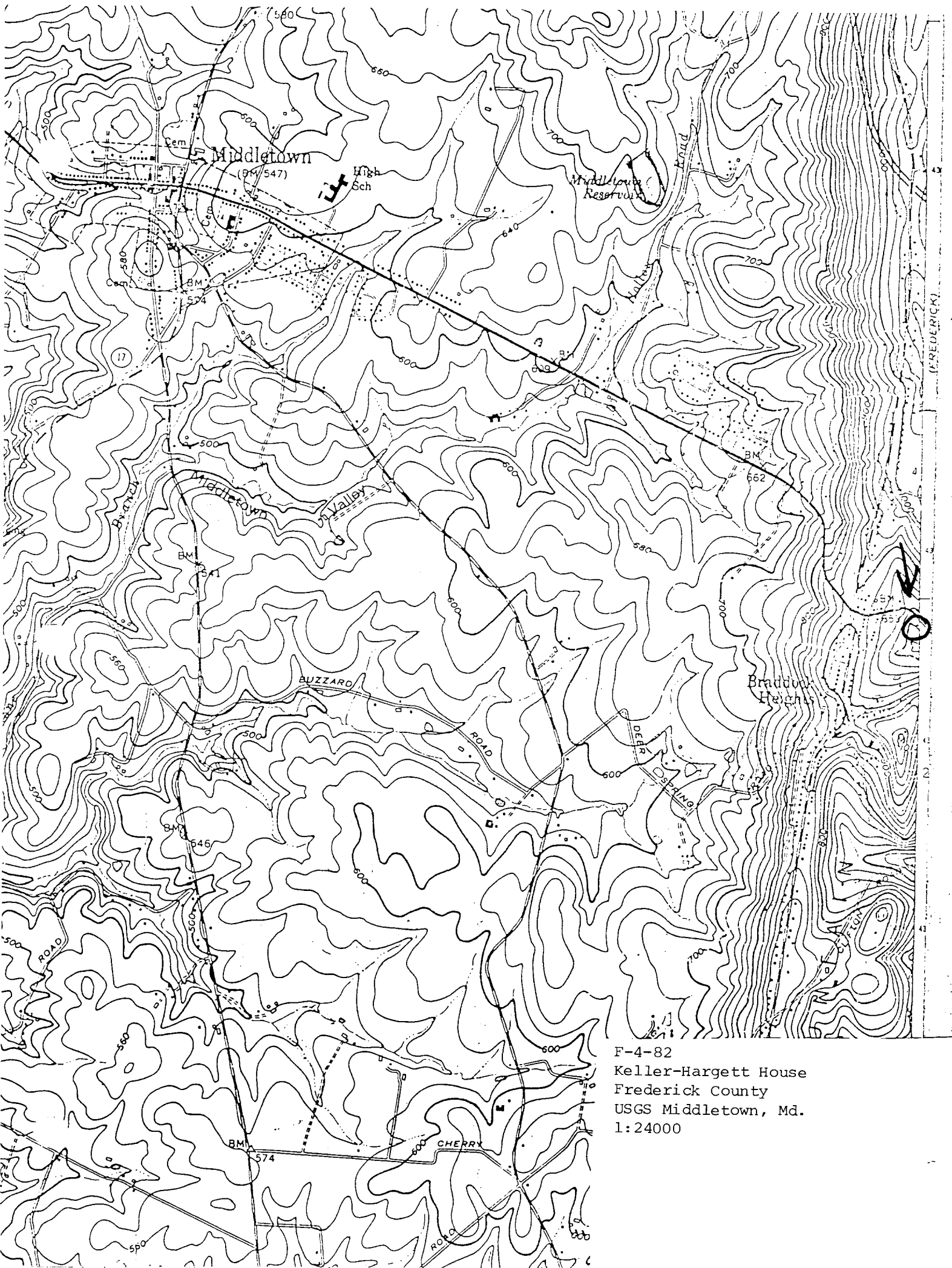
E-4-82



F-4-82
Keller-Hargett House
Frederick County
Isaac Bond, Map of Frederick County,
1858.



F-4-82
 Keller-Hargett House
 Frederick County
 C.O. Titus, Atlas of Frederick County, 1873



F-4-82
Keller-Hargett House
Frederick County
USGS Middletown, Md.
1:24000



F-4-82

Keller-Hargett House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northeast corner view

1/4



F 4-80

Keller-Hornett House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Northwest corner view

2/4



F. 4. 82

Keller-Hargett House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

West elevation

3/4



F-4-82

Keller-Hargett House

Frederick County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1992

Neg. loc.: Md. SHPO, Crownsville, Md.

Palladian window detail

4/4